Canvass Modernization – Project Update FAQ

What is a call-in sheet?

A call-in sheet is a printout of all contests and candidates on a ballot for a reporting unit. It is referred to a call-in sheet because they can be used by a municipality for calling in results to the county on election night. The call-in sheet will include a listing of all registered write-in candidates.

Where do you go to upload the results on election night?

The current plan is to include either a workflow or button to upload results into WisVote. The ideas are still in development and it will most likely be located on the main contest view page within each result set for convenience.

Will we be entering the results for all candidates on our ballots after each election?

Commission staff will not require anyone to use to use the Election Night Result Set in WisVote. Some counties use the current Canvass system for Election Night results. Those counties hand enter all results into Canvass on election night or have municipalities enter all results. In that situation, you may have to use the result set if the county is using the system and requests that election night results be submitted in this manner. If your county does not request results be submitted this way, there is no requirement to use the Elections Night Result Sets in WisVote.

Counties will be required to use the Official Results Set to report all state and federal contest results for certification.

Is entering total ballots a new requirement?

The Total Ballots field will be optional. The Total Ballots field will be used to help with data quality, but you do not have to use these options to use WisVote Election Results. For clerks who upload a file the WEC will work with your vender and inform you what vendor report you can use for uploading results.

Will the Call-In Sheet still be available under the shiny Canvass button?

The call-in sheets will be available as a report under the individual elections. The Canvass tile will be removed from WisVote and the existing Canvass system will be deactivated when the new Elections Results goes live. The button on the WEC website can stay but it will take the user to WisVote.

Currently our upload file doesn't include Total Ballots will we need to upload a different file?

This is not currently known. The WEC will work with your vender and inform you what vendor report you can use for uploading results. If changes need to be made to the files to support uploading, we will communicate this info to all clerks.

We have a ward in the April election with no candidate, what do we do with write ins?

All registered write-in candidates should be entered into WisVote in order for them to appear on call-in sheets and results reports. This is not a change from current requirements. Write-in candidates are entered in WisVote in the same manner as ballot candidates, but the users must check the write-in option on the candidate record and we recommend the words "write-in" in parentheses after the Candidate name on ballot in the candidate record. It may seem strange to enter a "name on ballot" for a write-in candidate because the candidate is not on the ballot. Candidate records with the write-in box checked do not appear on MyVote ballots or sample ballots, but will appear on call-in sheets and results reports. Registered write-ins can be entered after the contests and candidates complete checkpoints have been checked. The deadline for write-in candidates to file a registration statement is noon on the Friday preceding the election. Wis. Stat. §7.50(2)(em).

What if there are no registered write ins?

We are still working on this specific case, where there are no registered write-ins and no candidates. Handling this from an elections-administration standpoint will be covered as part of the EA Counting Votes webinar scheduled for February 7, 2018.

Will there be a default of "zero" in the vote count field?

There will not be a default entry of zero in the vote count fields. However, like the current Canvass System, there will be an option to allow you to zero-out remaining fields that have no data entered.

Can municipal and county clerks overwrite each other in the Election Night result set?

Yes, it would be possible. Both municipal and county clerks will have access to the Election Night result set and will have the ability to enter results, the same as Canvass works now. If a municipality is expected to enter their own results for the county, they will be able to do so. If a county will be entering municipal results for their municipalities, be sure to communicate these expectations so that you do not run into each other in the Election Night Results. Municipalities will NOT be able to edit Official results for county, state or federal contests. Counties are required to post unofficial results on Election Night for all results. There is no requirement for how long counties should keep unofficial election night results posted on their website. WEC recommends that unofficial election night results be clearly labeled "unofficial" and that unofficial results be taken off the county website when official results have been certified and posted.